



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

Med 215.41



HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
THE BEQUEST OF  
WILLIAM LAMBERT RICHARDSON  
A.B. 1864, M.D. 1867  
OF BOSTON

7

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL

SKETCHES

BY

COTTING AND WELLINGTON

*Alterius sic*  
*Altera poscit opem res et conjurat AMICE.*

Ms. 215.41  
✓

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
BEQUEST OF  
DR. WILLIAM L. RICHARDSON  
FEBRUARY 24, 1933

Obstetrical Society of Boston

---

Historical Sketch

COTTING

---

Biographical Sketches

WELLINGTON

---

1881



HISTORICAL SKETCH

---

COTTING





HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
**Obstetrical Society of Boston;**

BY  
BENJAMIN E. COTTING, A.M., M.D., (Harv.).  
*Member of the Society, &c. &c.*

---

“ Historia quoquo modo scripta delectat.”  
PLIN. 2<sup>dus</sup> V. 8.

---

BOSTON:  
DAVID CLAPP & SON.  
564 WASHINGTON STREET.  
1881.

*Read June 11, 1881.*

*Printed by vote of the Society.*

## TO MEMBERS O. S. OF B.

---

I HAVE not any apology to offer for the present paper. On the accession of our new President, last winter, I handed to him my resignation of membership, that he might have fresher and abler assistance in a new and younger member. He returned my note with an *order* to write a History of the Society, for the June meeting ;—adding that he had directed another member to prepare sketches of deceased members for the same occasion.

As an old advocate for subordination I felt constrained to comply.

I confess also to a certain satisfaction in thus being called to render a last service to the Society in connection with one with whom I have been in intimate and uninterrupted friendship from infancy onward—a period of more than sixty years.

Nevertheless, throughout the following sketch it

should be borne in mind continuously that the paper is not a volunteered offering, but an unwonted labor exacted by an arbitrary command of our President ; —and that, in such circumstances, if criticism be not disarmed, at least the *lusus* in the production may be naturally accounted for.

ROXBURY, BOSTON, 1881.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

---

### CHAPTER I.

*"Ex opere ipso labor."*—Quint. x. 3.

#### THE FIRST DECADE.

THE Obstetrical Society of Boston is now well advanced in its twenty-first year.

On the evening of December 7th, 1860, the writer, then a suburban, having gone into town to a lecture which he was very desirous to hear, had just seated himself quietly in the crowded hall when, traced thither, he was touched upon the shoulder and called out by Dr. Charles G. Putnam, who urgently requested his attendance in another part of the city, where other gentlemen had assembled, and were awaiting the Doctor's return. The purpose of their meeting was briefly stated. That the writer was unaware that any such undertaking was thought of, mattered not; that he did not feel any spontaneous inclination to join in forming such a society; nor possess any *special* qualifications for member-

ship, if one were already formed ; that he had other objects in view for the evening ;—all such suggestions were of no avail ; remonstrance was useless ; go he must, and along he went with his friend. On the way he was told, further, that he was expected to preside at the meeting,—a rather startling announcement ; but there was no help for him. *It was so fated.*

The idea of establishing an Obstetrical Society in Boston originated with Dr. William Read, while he was engaged in writing his monograph on Placenta Prævia ; an exhaustive treatise, which was published in 1861 by the Massachusetts Medical Society as Vol. XXIII. of its Library of Practical Medicine.

Dr. Read enlisted in the cause his near neighbor, Dr. Charles E. Buckingham ; and these two communicated the project to Dr. Charles G. Putnam, who at once readily joined them. At Dr. Putnam's house in Temple Place, the subject was discussed, and a plan proposed. A circular, without signatures, was sent to such of the profession as were thought to be interested in obstetrical studies, inviting them to meet at the Medical Rooms, 36 Temple Place, to consider and to act upon the matter. A

number, thus invited, took no notice of the invitation. If a circular was sent to the writer it failed to reach him. Probably there were others, expected at the meeting, who in like manner never received the notification.

At the meeting, December 7th, 1860, there were present, at 36 Temple Place, Drs. Walter Channing, John Homans, sen., D. Humphreys Storer, Charles G. Putnam, Anson Hooker, Charles E. Buckingham, William Read, John P. Reynolds, Charles D. Homans, Calvin G. Page, Lucius M. Sargent, Alexander D. Sinclair, B. Joy Jeffries, and the writer drawn in as before described.

Drs. George H. Lyman and Zabdiel B. Adams appeared at the second meeting.

Two meetings were occupied in preliminaries, and in adopting a plan of organization, with Constitution and By-Laws. Dr. Charles D. Homans was secretary of these meetings.

It is interesting, not to say amusing, to notice the personal traits and mental peculiarities of the several practitioners thus assembled, as these crop out in the brief records of the proceedings. The Chairman, as best he could in the rather embarrassing position, stated the object of the call, and the expectations of those from whom it emanated,

as he had heard of them by the way-side. Dr. Putnam, with characteristic modesty and caution, *hoped* that the society would be formed; thought that, inasmuch as its scope would be confined to obstetrical and kindred subjects, it would not interfere with any organization then existing; and with steadfast faith, equally his characteristic, "had no doubt of its success." Its originator and first regular secretary, Dr. Read, was very desirous that such a society should be formed. It would be, he said, the first of its kind in the country; and it was due to the profession that it should be established to aid in cultivating this particular field of professional knowledge; he therefore *moved* its formation. Dr. Putnam seconded the motion. Dr. John Homans, sen., always ready to help forward any good work, considered that such a society would be useful, and he would do all in his power to promote its success. The old ex-professor, Dr. Channing (and one can see him pushing up his coat-sleeves as he bustlingly began) said that he had just been called to a case of labor; must be off at once; but was strongly in favor of the proposed organization, and firm in the belief of the good that would result from it. The Professor of Obstetrics, Dr. Storer, while objecting to the way in which the meeting was called, added



that if any good was likely to come from the formation of such a society he was ready to do any thing he could to secure its prosperity. One gentleman approvingly remarked that he had had much pleasure in attending meetings of a similar society in Edinburgh; and another, apparently in favor of the formation, thought the meetings should not be too frequent, and named the fifth Mondays of the month, whenever such occurred, for the days of meeting. Other gentlemen present having expressed themselves in favor of establishing such a society, and no one dissenting,—Drs. John Homans, sen., William Read, and B. Joy Jeffries were appointed a committee to report “a plan of organization” at an adjourned meeting.

The adjourned meeting, January 5th, 1861, was occupied chiefly in establishing the Society on the basis of a plan reported by the committee, and in adopting a Constitution and By-Laws. The meeting was very harmonious. It was enlivened, however, by the advocate of infrequent meetings, who, after tardy arrival, requested that a section of By-Laws, already approved of and passed by the meeting, should be read again “as he was not present when it passed”; and then moved its reconsideration on the ground that as some other societies get along

without Presidents and Vice-Presidents,\* this Society would do well without such officers. He further argued with much earnestness that with a permanent presiding officer there might be an unpleasant amount of stiffness in the meetings, and that members would not feel on an equality with one another. Others present, wishing (as more than one of them said) to honor their prominent men, did not agree with him; and the committee's plan prevailed.

At the third meeting, January 12th, 1861, on the Report of a Nominating Committee, permanent officers were chosen, as follows:—

President, Dr. WALTER CHANNING.

1st Vice-President, Dr. D. HUMPHREYS STORER.

2d Vice-President, Dr. CHARLES G. PUTNAM.

Treasurer, Dr. CHARLES D. HOMANS.

Recording Secretary,† Dr. WILLIAM READ.

The President elect being present signified his acceptance, was conducted to the chair, and, after a few words of welcome, as the Record has it, from

---

\* At least one of these societies has been constrained to alter its plan, and now has a permanent presiding officer.

† The constitution had not provided for a Corresponding Secretary, and the nominating committee, accordingly, had not reported a nomination therefor; but the Society, wishing, if successful, to be in alliance with similar institutions, voted to have such an officer. The writer was thereupon chosen; and was continued in office till he resigned in 1867. He subsequently declined all nominations offered him for office in the Society. Dr. Luther Parks followed him as Corresponding Secretary.

the chairman, assumed the duties of the office with appropriate remarks, chiefly on what had been done abroad, and what might be possible or desirable in this Society. He concluded with an offer to read a paper at the next meeting.

Our first President was a peculiar man,—a *genius*; learned, and at times eloquent in speech; and not unlike others in his specialty, somewhat unbalanced and rather erratic. He promised freely, with fullest intention; not unfrequently coming short in fulfilment. We did not get the promised paper! Instead, we had an interesting impromptu discussion among the members, supplemented by an animated harangue by the President, with some of his “remarkable cases,” on a subject incidentally brought before the meeting.

For a year or so the Society flourished,—better than was to be “expected under the circumstances.” The President usually attended the meetings; the 2d Vice President always,—graciously bearing the many responsibilities which without restraint were laid upon him. The meetings were held in the Medical Rooms in Temple Place, and usually on alternate months.

After the eighth meeting, March 1st, 1862, there

was a sudden and great falling off in interest and in attendance. The Secretary had met with a disabling accident. The Civil War had become a serious matter, absorbing all other interests. The old, outer hall in Temple Place was a cheerless room for a small gathering; and was not always found open when a meeting was attempted. On a summer evening designated for a meeting, Dr. Buckingham and the writer met before the closed entrance. Seated on the stone door-steps, they held a long discussion on the unpromising condition of the Society, and the discouraging lukewarmness of some of the members who should be its chief supporters. They came to the conclusion, nevertheless, that it was worth while to make further and earnest efforts to resuscitate the Society. The writer\* advocated meetings at members' houses,—to be supplemented, socially, by simple entertainments on the close of the regular professional work of the evening; or, in the words of the Secretary as he afterwards recorded it, "to go from labor to refreshment." This being approved of by his companion, the writer accordingly invited the Society to his house at the September meeting of 1862.

Although the Secretary's very brief record of that

---

\* See Society's Records, MS., vol. i. p. 59, and p. 263.

occasion shows that the attempt was appreciated, no one seemed ready at that time to follow up the plan. Such meetings were not so common then as now. Strict *science* frowned upon *bivalves*, as its advocates reproachfully styled such social adjuncts; notwithstanding much more of truly scientific work was usually done at semi-social meetings than at any other.

The Society's next meeting, at the hall, proved a failure. Severe snow storms prevented meetings in both January and March following. In May there was a small gathering, but no other meeting was attempted during the dismal year 1863.

As the time for the next annual meeting approached, the same friends, encouraged by the 2d Vice President, resolved to try again. They consulted Dr. John Homans, sen., who kindly favored another effort, and invited the Society to hold the annual meeting at his house in Arlington Street. It was therefore held there, January 2d, 1864, and was a full meeting. The old officers were re-elected; a few by-laws were amended; important cases were related, with interesting comments by the President and others; and, after adjournment, to quote from the Records, "an hour was spent in a most agreeable manner."

During the year 1864, there were *ten* meetings of the Society, eight of which were held at the houses of members. This was a year of prosperity and good work, due chiefly to the new arrangement. Only one or two of the slightest ripples occurred in the smooth and even current of the Society's progress.

In March Dr. Channing resigned the office of President, but the Society did not fill the vacant chair. A committee reported suitable resolutions, and recommended that Dr. Channing be made President-emeritus, which the society unanimously confirmed at a subsequent meeting. He, however, continued to attend occasionally, and to preside whenever present; but he was then 78 years old, was not in firm health, had retired from practice, and lived out of the city. The resolutions gratefully acknowledged "his unwearied efforts for the Society, and the honor his name had conferred upon it." This was in March, 1864. The choice of a new President was deferred to the annual meeting in January, 1865.

In November, 1864, the 1st Vice President invited the Society to hold a meeting at his house. The invitation was accepted, and the meeting proved a pleasant re-union. The President-emeri-

tus came, in the best of spirits, and was unusually animated. Interesting cases were read, and were followed up by earnest discussions. It was evident that the resuscitation of the Society had been secured beyond a doubt.

At the annual meeting next ensuing, January 7th, 1865, at Dr. Ayer's, Staniford Street, the Society elected its 2d Vice President, Dr. Charles G. Putnam, for its President; Dr. Anson Hooker, for 2d Vice President; and filled the other offices as before. It voted also to hold meetings every month; instead of every two months, the previous rule.

Thenceforward Dr. Putnam, who had been one of the first to aid in the formation of the Society, always a most constant and energetic member, and its devoted friend, continued to be elected annually till his final resignation in 1869, when Dr. Charles E. Buckingham, one of the three original founders of the Society, was chosen to fill the vacancy. It should be mentioned, however, in passing, that the cry of rotation-in-office, so disastrous to any society having good officers willing to remain in service, became so unpleasant that Dr. Putnam, in March, 1867, the third year of his presidency, persisted in withdrawing from the office, and Dr. Anson Hooker was chosen to fill the chair for the re-

mainder of the year. But at the next annual meeting Dr. Hooker peremptorily refused to be a candidate, and Dr. Putnam was re-instated.

Dr. Putnam had not the eccentricities sometimes noticeable in prominent obstetricians, or the waywardness occasionally adherent to a specialty. Indeed, though fully appreciated and held in high honor by those who knew him best, such was his inborn unassuming, nay shrinking modesty of character and demeanor that he never passed for half his worth. In formidable cases he had not, hereabouts, a superior, if an equal, in the use of instruments and remedial measures. His calm counsels and firm faith in its possibilities sustained the Society in its darkest times, when others, even of its officers, weakened and almost crushed it by their doubts and discouraging predictions.

For the next six years following that of 1864, completing the first decade of the Society and the first book of its Records, there were fifty-one meetings—each taking up an average of five quarto pages for the very succinct record of the proceedings. During these six years the meetings, with one exception, were held at the houses of members; and there seldom, if ever, failed to be brought forward something of real professional interest and utility.



In summing up the work accomplished in the first ten years of its existence, we find from its records that almost every *special* topic considered in other States or countries was brought up, for a word at least, before this Society. It is true that we did not have elaborated discussions, with set speeches prepared beforehand, or learned dissertations exhausting subjects under notice, as some foreign societies were favored with. But almost always there was some member present who was able to give the real gist of the matter, or the actual state of existing knowledge, in the questions at issue,—information often quite as satisfactory to the practitioner as that deducible from pretentious discussions like those alluded to.

Nor were the social additions to the meetings without marked beneficial results. They revived and strengthened the Society; and saved it from disorganization. They caused meetings to be fully attended when without them, as had been proved, few if any members would have appeared. Not that any member ever went to a meeting solely for the sake of the entertainment; though there is hardly one who can say that he has not been induced at times to be present because of the invitation, or that he has not made special exertion, more

than once, to be in attendance because the meeting was to be held at the house of a particular friend. Of a truth, science, pure and simple, is wonderfully stimulated by the introduction of the social element, as has been notably demonstrated in higher academies, as well as in our unobtrusive special society.

As a final and impartial conclusion to this chapter of our history, — it may be averred that if, in its first decade, the Obstetrical Society of Boston was not a complete success, professionally and socially, it cannot be called a failure. The opinion of its founders that there was need of it was amply justified. Their hopes were largely fulfilled. Their efforts in its behalf were not unrewarded.

## CHAPTER II.

*"Vel easdem, vel etiam alias, veras modo."*

Quint x. 5.

### THE SECOND DECADE.

It was not until the introduction of the social element that the survival of the Society seemed probable. But on this addition to its attractions a greater interest was awakened, and it began to prosper. Thenceforward the Society strengthened year by year, and by the end of the first decade had become firmly established. Its meetings were held regularly on the second Saturday evening of each month, except in summer. From the year 1867 to the present time there have been nine meetings every year, with one omission only, that of February, 1875, out of respect to Dr. Putnam its best friend then recently deceased. All these meetings were held at the houses of members, who each, as may be truly said, felt a personal disappointment whenever illness or imperative professional duty prevented attendance. The happy combination of the useful

with the agreeable, of science with sociality, has done this, and is destined to do much more in the same direction as, in the course of nature, new and better life gradually supplants that passing away. This is the present promise,—one of certain fulfilment, unless discontent with attained good demoralize, or laxness in restrictions be permitted to undermine the Society.

Originally the Society was to consist of twenty-five members only. In 1871 the number was increased to thirty. The election of a candidate likely to prove displeasing to any member was carefully provided against by formalities in nomination, and in the election itself. Two negative ballots, cast unseen in a covered box, were sufficient for rejection. The strictness of these formalities has been remitted somewhat; and the number of negative ballots has been increased to four. But whether these alterations will prove eventually to be beneficial remains to be seen, and is still problematical.

In general those societies thrive best whose portals of admission are most strictly guarded. Societies open to every body, or of easy entrance, are not held in high esteem even by those who enter; nor is membership in such considered of much honor

by the outside world. That numbers may inspire to greater exertions and loftier efforts, — that meetings in halls devoted to science only may conduce to worthier labors, restless individuals would fain have their associates believe, not content with quiet progress which perhaps they do little or nothing themselves to stimulate or to promote. Such reformers seem to forget that the amount of “energizing force”\* they thus detrimentally waste, if rightly directed, would obviate the indifference or remove the inertia of which they complain.

That our Society should wholly escape such murmurings was not to be expected ; that it has suffered so little therefrom is a matter of real congratulation. There has been from the beginning a repressed inclination in some members to advocate the admission of a greater number than the by-laws allowed. But the social addition, now become essential, putting a limit though as yet not a rigid one ; the necessarily small number who can ever make a specialty of this department ; and, more than all, the risk of admitting discordant elements should numbers prevail over proper selection ; — these are some of the reasons which have hitherto restrained the conserva-

---

\* Not long ago *force* was the scientific word ; recently *energy* obtained ; now we have “energizing force.” What next ?

tives of the Society from permitting changes in its original plan; changes offering uncertain advantages only, while inevitably accompanied with great dangers to the harmony if not the existence of the Society. In fact, however, the rejection of candidates has seldom occurred; and notably there has been a corresponding desire not to press the election of personal friends or acquaintances, if there was found even a chance of disturbing a single member. In this way our Society has avoided dangers and escaped mistakes which have ruined the fair prospects of many a worthy enterprise.

Attendance at meetings has been usually prompt, and reputable in numbers. Members in active obstetric practice cannot ever command a given hour. Temporary absence, illness, and the various haps of life often defeat the best intentions. If there has not been always a large proportion present, the exceptions have been such only as are said to prove a rule.

As a matter of statistics, eight members have died: Channing, Putnam, Hooker, Buckingham, Coale, Page, Palmer, and Sargent; sixteen have resigned membership: J. Homans, sen., Storer, Read, Dupee, Adams, Jeffries, Crane, Damon, Ayer, Shaw, Borland, Lincoln, Treadwell, Oliver,

Parks and Tuck. The present number is twenty-nine. Of the dead, the President has directed suitable notices to be prepared by another and able member. Of the living, long may it be before any pen shall be required to date a completed record.

The Society was formed, and has existed in a period when there seems to have been an increased activity on all sides in subjects connected with its special department. That it kept pace with whatever originated or was held worthy of consideration elsewhere has been already indicated. That of itself it has done something in original work, or newly-tried observations, — enough at least not to be discreditable where the field is so small and the laborers so few, — is susceptible of satisfactory confirmation.

Among matters most frequently discussed that of puerperal fever appears prominent in the Records. Accounts of cases, occurring in numerous instances, singly, in groups, or in series, have been detailed and critically analyzed — with convincing evidence that there is such a disease *per se*, distinct from and not induced by simple peritonitis, erysipelas, or other disorders; that while it is usually sporadic, it is occasionally epidemic; that, though sometimes

seeming to follow an individual practitioner, conveyance by him is more in appearance than reality; in which respect this disease differs not from other diseases where, when so following an individual, there cannot be the least suspicion of contagion through him.\*

Puerperal convulsions also have occupied much of the Society's attention. That there are various conditions and grades classed under this one term, from the slightest tremor or hysterical agitation to the severest form of apoplexy, is clearly deducible from the Society's Records on this subject. That the presence of albumen, casts, &c., in the urine, and of œdema general or partial, does not necessarily indicate uræmic poisoning, or diseased kidneys — to be followed inevitably by convulsions and a fatal result — is no less certain from the reported experience and observations of members.

Forceps; their history and improvements, their utility, when preferable or not to turning, their judicious but not too frequent use, their application to

---

\* See, *e. g.* Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, March 18th, 1875, pp. 323, &c. One member reported five consecutive cases of mammary abscess in his own practice, when there were not any others in the practice of physicians around him. Another practitioner had eight consecutive cases of scarlet fever, in as many different houses, while there were not any other cases in his city. Of course he did not "carry" the disease in these cases, as he was not called to the patients until after it had declared itself.



the pelvic form of the mother rather than to a theoretic place of selection on the child's head — these points have all been frequently under discussion, restraining hasty and confirming deliberate action.

Abortion, justifiable in extreme cases, its proper treatment in prevention or after delivery ; these and kindred matters, such as dilatation of the cervix for relief of obstinate vomiting in pregnancy, and the use of chloral in the first stages of labor have not been neglected.

The number of morbid specimens presented, and of monstrosities of especial interest, has been unexpectedly large ; and important points have been illustrated on their dissection.

Milk-leg, so-called, local œdema, phlebitis, emboli, pelvic hæmatocele and abscess, erysipelas at or after confinements not communicating itself nor inducing puerperal fever in other parturients though in adjoining beds, local vulvar erysipelas without internal disturbance, these and other post partum complications or abnormal appearances have been frequently the subjects of oral or written communications.

Cases of malignant uterine disease, uncomplicated or occurring in the course of pregnancy, have been reported from time to time, giving rise to in-

teresting discussions; so also of subinvolution, and other embarrassing abnormalities. Dr. Putnam's successful restoration of the organ in cases of long-standing inversion of the uterus, showed wonderful self-reliance in the operator in the adoption of the measures decided upon, and extraordinary dexterity, skill, and long-sustained endurance in carrying them out; and were, moreover, examples of applied science memorable in themselves and notable in the transactions of the Society.

Of the original, as well as most able, communications to the Society were the papers read in February and May, 1878,\* by its present President, on "The Tonic Spasm of the Internal Os," an intra-uterine annular constriction, tetanic in its firmness and persistence; producing one of the worst forms of dystocia. These papers give an account of his first encounter with this formidable affection, and his original investigations to solve its mysteries, together with his subsequent studies thereon, and the aid he obtained in arriving at a just comprehension of the true clinical condition involved. To these papers the American Profession † are chiefly

---

\* Published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, March 21st and May 30th, 1878.

† See second American edition of Playfair's Midwifery, p. 350. See Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal, January, 1879, p. 345.

indebted for their first and full knowledge of what came to the author "with startling impression" as a new and unheard-of experience, and as, in his own words, "an alarming and troublesome novelty."

"Sinclair's Method of Inducing Premature Labor," by manual dilatation of the os uteri, is another instance of original work promoted and brought out by this Society. Although he had reported to another society,\* several years before, a case in which this method was resorted to, the procedure appears to have failed to make any impression, as the whole discussion which followed digressed entirely to other points in the case; and it did not obtain general recognition until after Dr. Sinclair brought forward his further experience to this society in October, 1874.† This new method affords ready, safe, and practical means to control much of the danger and difficulty in cases of convulsions, placenta prævia, and accidental hemorrhage.

Uterine measurements post partum, originating with Dr. W. L. Richardson,‡ and systematically followed up by him and Dr. Sinclair in their ser-

---

\* See Records of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, vol. vi. pp. 129-30.

† Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, February 4th, 1875.

‡ See Trans. Am. Gynecological Society, vol. iv. p. 231.

vices at the Boston Lying-in Hospital, have afforded interesting original communications to this Society. Among his many other valuable papers, here and elsewhere, Dr. Richardson was the first to call attention of the society to subacute cystitis following pregnancy,\* and that produced by tedious or instrumental labor. He also gave us new and practical views on Parenchymatous Nephritis.

From the foregoing short synopses may be inferred the nature and range of the work accomplished or undertaken by the Society. These synopses do not present the whole, nor even any considerable portion of what has received its attention.† They show, however, personal independence in the observation and study of cases, fearless utterance of opinions formed through practical investigations; and a readiness to submit to the test of discussion and criticism, creditable alike to individual members and the society. These synopses show also that originality has not been wanting. Still it is not given to every one to make discoveries which shall be accepted everywhere as new and

---

\* Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Feb. 3d, 1876, p. 113.

† The present Recording Secretary, Dr. C. W. Swan, reports that 27 separate papers, 17 as leading articles, and 72 reports of meetings, have been published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

useful. Many things quite valuable in themselves never get into the books or professional traditions, but, if kept alive, must be re-discovered, over and over again, and brought to light with as much real originality in each new as in each preceding instance. Some of the cases cited may be claimed by others at work, at the same or previous times, in the same line of investigations; or something not wholly unlike them may be unearthed by burrowing resurrectionists delving in the dust of long buried records. But such a possibility should not detract in any case from the credit of meritorious activity and public spirit, or honor of originality, of any one, who without mercenary motive unselfishly hastens to communicate his presumable discovery to his associates.

It may be that an eminent foreign professor had already recognized, clinically or in pathological specimens, the peculiar contraction reported to our Society as a newly demonstrated fact, but that should not render our President, who knew nothing of any such foreign work, any the less an original observer.

It may be that one or another medical man had practised manual dilatation, in some pressing emergency, but that should not detract from the

priority established by a first systematic exposition and publication. The Records of the profession do not appear to show anything of the kind before Dr. Sinclair made known his method.

It may be that post partum measurements may seem to some an affair of no great moment, but this if true, which it is not, would not diminish the scientific character of the proceeding, nor abate its merits as an original investigation.

Hence it may be claimed, and not unjustly, that, although it has not had the "inexhaustible stores of obstetric experience" \* to draw from, nor "the prodigious advantages afforded by an enormous population,"\* which the Obstetrical Society of London may exult in, our small Society, in its narrow opportunities and with its limited number of workers, has not been unmindful of its obligations to science. In this regard it has not hid its one talent in the earth.

But after all our Society was not founded solely, nor even in a secondary degree, with a view to original discoveries. Its founders had in mind mutual improvement in a particular department of medicine, — the better understanding and the better

---

\* Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London, Vol. I. p. 3, and p. 8.

performance of the every day routine-work of the individual practitioner,—and all that renders that work safe, quick, and successful to both the patient and the attendant. Common cases, common experiences, common practice, frankly related and freely discussed for the benefit and further re-assurance of all; these were held of first importance. The extraordinary and the terrific would of themselves force recognition. Original investigations would follow as a matter of course. Discoveries would from time to time reward the painstaking searcher into the secrets of nature. These and such as these were the objects, hopes, and expectations of the original founders of the society.

This then is the simple and unvarnished story of our Society, as it appears to one observant of its origin, its methods, and its progress since its foundation. It has survived the dangers of infancy; and the complaints of childhood. Its commencing adult age is one of confidence and promise. Unnoised advancement, *viresque acquirit eundo*, is its present encouraging characteristic. Admission into its circle is now sought for; and is becoming, more and more, an object of ambition with those

interested in obstetrical studies. It offers advantages of inestimable value to members more especially engaged in practice in this department of medicine.

МАСТЕ.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

---

WELLINGTON



# BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE

## Obstetrical Society of Boston;

WITH

AN OUTLINE OF THE EARLIER OBSTETRICAL  
HISTORY OF BOSTON AND VICINITY.

BY

WILLIAM W. WELLINGTON, A.M., M.D., (Harv.),  
*Member of the Society, &c. &c.*

---

"Footprints on the sands of time."

---

*Read June 11, 1881.*

*Printed by vote of the Society.*

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

---

### CHAPTER I.

AMONG the passengers of the Mayflower, who landed at Plymouth in December, 1620, was Dr. Samuel Fuller. He was the first regularly educated physician in New England. He was also a deacon of the church, and his services were in demand both for the souls and the bodies of the Pilgrims.

He must have had a sad time during his first winter in Plymouth. Nearly half of those who landed in December died before spring. We know little of what they suffered, or of what was done for their relief. But the mortality was enough to paralyze the energies of any physician.

Dr. Fuller's practice seems to have been heroic. In a letter to Governor Bradford, dated June, 1630, he writes: "I have been to Matapan, and let some twenty of those people blood." Good Dr. Thacher is at a loss to determine what disease prevailed

among "those people," that required such a loss of blood "in the warm season of June." If the Old Colony pilgrims were subjected to the same treatment as were the unfortunate Matapanese, we may perhaps account in part for the remarkable mortality of that first winter in Plymouth.

Dr. Fuller died in the summer of 1633. His wife at a later period became a midwife. We know but little of her except "that she was held in esteem." She probably did most of the obstetrical work in the colony, and as her husband was the first physician, so she was the first midwife, in Massachusetts.

It is obvious that the obstetrical art must have been almost coëval with mankind. Until recently, among all nations, and in all times, this art has been practised by women. From the passages of Scripture where midwives are mentioned, it is plain that women were the only practitioners of obstetrics among the Hebrews and Egyptians. The first recorded case of labor was under the care of a midwife, and was a fatal one. According to the account in the Book of Genesis, "the soul of Rachel departed from her in giving birth to her son Benjamin."

It should be stated to the credit of the Hebrew

midwives, that, when commanded by the king of Egypt to kill all the male children who should be born under their care, they feared God and refused to obey, and thus "saved the men-children alive." These midwives not only "feared God," but they were bright women. When the king called for them, and asked them why they had not obeyed his command, they promptly replied: "Because the Hebrew women are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them."

The Greeks and Romans also confided this important branch to the female sex, a surgeon being occasionally called in desperate cases. But the dangers of child-birth could not have been greatly diminished by the exercise of the best skill, which medical men then possessed in this department.

Ancient medical writers lay down sundry rules for guidance in difficult cases of labor; but generally these rules are not of great practical value. Frequent mention is made of midwives. Phanarete, the mother of Socrates, and Aspasia, the friend and companion of Pericles, belonged to this class.

The first obstetrical treatise of which we have any knowledge, was written in 1513, by Eucharius Rhodion, a German, and was translated into Eng-

lish, in 1540, by Richard Jonas. It is evident from this book that, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, midwifery was a sorry art, and that the lot of parturient women in those days must have been deplorable.

The employment of men in the practice of midwifery goes no farther back than the middle of the seventeenth century. In 1663, Madame de la Valliere, the mistress of King Louis XIV., saw fit to place herself in her first confinement under the care of Clement, a surgeon of high reputation. When labor came on, he was conducted with great secrecy to the house where the lady resided. Her face was covered with a hood, and the king is said to have hidden himself behind the curtains in order to be sure that everything was right. The same surgeon was employed in the subsequent labors of this lady; his practice being successful, other ladies of note were led to employ surgeons on similar occasions, and accoucheurs, as they began to be called, came into repute.

It is a singular fact, that while, until the middle of the seventeenth century, midwifery in Europe received from medical men but little attention in comparison with physic and surgery, the reverse was the case in China. There, both physic and



surgery are in a low condition ; but, for hundreds of years, midwifery has been practised by a set of men, destined, and we may infer educated, for the work by the government. These men are called whenever a woman has been in labor more than a specified number of hours. A proportionate number of such persons is allotted to each district containing a certain population. This course was originally adopted "because annually many women died undelivered, whose lives, it was thought, might have been saved."

Tracing down the obstetrical history of Massachusetts for a century and a half, from the days of Mrs. Samuel Fuller, of Plymouth, midwife (1633 et seq.), we find midwifery, as in European countries, largely in the hands of women. A few of them may be named :

Mrs. Ann Hutchinson, who resided in Boston about the year 1637, had the reputation of being a very skilful midwife. She was banished, however, from the colony for agitating measures against the state.

In the town records of Rehoboth it is recorded, that, on the third day of July, 1663, it was voted, "that Mrs. Fuller of Plymouth be invited to come and dwell among us, to attend on the office of mid-

wife, to answer the town's necessity, which at present is great."

In Blake's "Annals of Dorchester," is this record : —"1705. This year died old Mrs. Wiat, widow, being 94 years of age, having as a midwife assisted y<sup>e</sup> birth of one Thousand one Hundred and odd children."

Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips, wife of John Phillips, was born in Westminster, England, and was commissioned by John, Lord Bishop of London, in the year 1718, to the office of a midwife. She came to Boston, in 1719, and, according to an inscription on her gravestone, " by the blessing of God brought into this world above three thousand (3,000) children." She died May 6, 1761, aged 76 years.

A noted midwife of Boston was Ruth Barnaby, who practised her calling for more than forty years, and died in 1765, at the mature age of 101 years.

Mrs. Ruth Stebbins, born in 1769, is spoken of as an excellent and successful nurse, who labored untiringly to benefit her sex.

It would be interesting to know what success attended the practice of midwifery during this century and a half. The midwives could not have received a medical education worth the name.

What little they knew was derived from their own imperfect observation, or from the experience of others as ignorant as themselves. They must have been ill-equipped for their work, and probably the work was not well performed.

At any rate, in the latter half of the eighteenth century, the condition of obstetrical practice was such that the medical profession began to think that a change was necessary. Midwifery in Massachusetts was behind the times. In France, since 1663, when Madame de la Valliere had the good sense to employ Julian Clement, this branch had been advancing. An obstetrical department had been established at the Hotel Dieu, in Paris, with public instruction and lectures. In England, Dr. William Harvey, after giving publicity to his discovery of the circulation of the blood in 1628, either from inclination or necessity, engaged in the practice of midwifery. In this way, he acquired a practical knowledge of obstetric work, which enabled him to write, and about the year 1653 to publish, his "*Exercitatio de Partu*."

Dr. John Mowbray, in 1724, gave public courses of lectures on obstetrics at his house in London. A syllabus of these lectures (twenty in number) was published under the title "*Midwifery brought to Perfection*."

Edmund Chapman was the second public teacher of midwifery in London, and is said to have been the first to describe the forceps, originally invented by Peter Chamberlen in 1640, and kept secret by him.\*

Sir Richard Manningham, in 1739, established a small hospital in Westminster for the reception of parturient women, which was the first institution of the kind in Great Britain. Here he gave lectures and clinical instruction. He was a man of much learning, and published several essays relating to the practice of midwifery.

In 1740, William Smellie came to London from a small country town in Scotland, and for twenty years taught and practised in that city. He became a celebrated obstetrician, and his name is respected wherever the obstetrical art is cultivated. He was an eminent lecturer; and, among his pupils, were many who afterwards became distinguished men. He published a treatise on midwifery, and also a volume of fine anatomical plates.

Contemporary with Smellie was William Hunter. Born in Scotland, a pupil of William Cullen,

---

\* The forceps, or something similar to it, was probably used at an earlier date. An instrument resembling a modern obstetrical forceps was exhumed from the ruins of Pompeii. Avicenna, an Arabian physician (born A.D. 980), after advising a fillet around the child's head to aid in its extraction, says, "when this fails apply forceps."

and his partner afterwards, he went to London in 1741. The most elaborate and brilliant of his publications, the "Anatomy of the Human Gravid Uterus," appeared in 1775, and gained for him a foremost rank among obstetrical writers. In 1778, he published "Reflections on the Section of the Symphysis Pubis," designed to show the impropriety and inutility of that surgical operation. He gave special courses of lectures on midwifery, and became accoucheur to the Middlesex, and afterwards to the British Lying-in, Hospital. He was a man of polished manners and cultivated mind, and was a successful competitor of Smellie in practice. He died in March, 1783.

Dr. Thomas Denman, a pupil of Smellie, and himself an able teacher and writer, says in relation to this period:—"The English may be said at this time to have been in full possession of the obstetrical art; books written in the neighboring countries had been translated, public lectures given, and a hospital established, for its improvement, and men of ability and eminence were engaged in its practice."

But in Massachusetts no such progress had been made. Obstetrical work was still largely in the hands of uneducated and unqualified persons, mostly women. When Dr. Holyoke

settled in Salem, in 1749, as we learn from his biography, this department of the healing art was entirely in the hands of ignorant midwives, and the physician was only called in extraordinary cases, or to rectify the blunders of these practitioners. The first case in which he was "persuaded to engage" occurred in 1755, after he had been in practice six years, and it was not till four years afterwards that he makes record of a case "which was the first common easy birth that ever came under his management." The necessity of elevating this important branch was immediate and imperative. The time had come for a new departure, and the man came with it. His name was James Lloyd.

## CHAPTER II.

Dr. JAMES LLOYD was born at Long Island, in March, 1728. His family was ancient and reputable. One of his ancestors was "Doctor in Physic" to Queen Elizabeth. At an early age he was sent to Stratford, in Connecticut, to get his education; where, and at New Haven, he remained several years. At the age of seventeen, he left Connecticut for Boston, and entered upon the study of medicine with Dr. William Clark, one of the noted physicians of his time, under whose instruction he continued for five years. In 1750, at the age of twenty-two years, at the suggestion of the physicians of Boston, and chiefly for the purpose of thoroughly qualifying himself for the practice of Obstetrics, he embarked for England, and devoted two years to an attendance on the London Hospitals. Here he had the opportunity to witness the practice of Cheselden and Sharpe, to attend the lectures and

private instructions of William Hunter, of William Smellie, and of Joseph Warner, the principal surgeon of Guy's Hospital. He also made the acquaintance of John Hunter, and of other prominent medical men in London. On leaving England he received an autograph certificate from Mr. Warner, closing thus: "As I know him to be perfectly well qualified in his profession, I think it incumbent on me to recommend him in the strongest manner I am capable of."

In 1752, Dr. Lloyd returned to America, and, at the age of twenty-four years, began practice in Boston. Occupying a good social position, fully equipped for his work as physician, surgeon, or obstetrician, he soon gained a high professional reputation, and a large and lucrative business. He is said to have included in the list of his patients every member of the clerical profession in Boston. "He scarcely," says Dr. Thacher, "enjoyed an undisturbed night's rest, and the residents of the street in which he resided as regularly expected to hear, during the stillness of the night, the well-known clatter of his horse's feet as the cry of the watchman."

Dr. Lloyd was the first regularly educated physician in Boston, who paid special attention to mid-



wifery. In this branch he manifested cleverness and skill. With signal ability and devotion he led the way in raising it from the low condition into which it had fallen, and placing it where it rightfully belongs, and where we hope it will long remain, in the hands of well-educated physicians. His professional books were not preserved, and no record remains of the amount of his obstetrical practice. It was undoubtedly very large.

He was a lover of horticulture. His estate on Pemberton Hill, previously a gravel-bank, was transformed into a beautiful garden, stocked with choice fruit trees and vines, and adorned with lawns and terraces. It was his habit to carry fruit from this garden to sick children under his care, calling it "God's medicine."

He was a social man, and entertained his friends with a generous hospitality. He kept open house, especially welcoming the visits of merchant captains, who came hither from China, the East Indies, and other distant places. He was the constant recipient of rare and beautiful presents from his foreign guests, and his house was full of such treasures.

He was a man of elegant appearance and manners. He kept fine horses. One in particular,

coal-black, of great speed, which he often rode, went by the name of "Steel-Trap." He owned on Long Island a great deal of land, then wooded, which he frequently visited for recreation.

He received, in 1790, from Harvard University, one of its first honorary medical degrees.

He was a conservative in politics, and did not sympathize with the patriots in the early stages of the war of the revolution. But he was a wise man and kept his own counsel, and so weathered the storm.

He lived to the age of eighty-two years, and died in March, 1810. He was greatly honored and beloved by the whole community, and his death made a deep public impression. His funeral, with its stately ceremonial, is remembered by some of our elder citizens.\*

The following passage is the close of the funeral sermon delivered on the occasion of his death by Rev. Dr. Gardner, Rector of Trinity Church: "If the value of a citizen is to be estimated by his public and private utility, this town has never, perhaps, sustained a greater loss. For nearly fifty-eight years he was in extensive practice, and there is,

---

\* Among these may be named the venerable Dr. Edward Reynolds, to whose kindness I am indebted for several facts in relation to Dr. Lloyd.

perhaps, no physician now living to whom so many individuals have been under professional obligations. The public have lost in him a practitioner of first-rate skill and ability ; polished society, a gentleman of consummate good breeding ; his country, a firm friend ; the poor, a most benevolent benefactor. He has descended to the grave full of years and honor, an ornament to his profession, and an example to his survivors."

Dr. Isaac Rand was a pupil of Dr. Lloyd. He settled as a physician in Boston in 1764, and soon gained distinction. He fully sympathized with Dr. Lloyd in his obstetrical work, and coöperated with him in his attempt to improve the practice of midwifery. He helped to complete what Dr. Lloyd had begun, and had the satisfaction of witnessing the good results of their mutual efforts.

He was one of the petitioners for the incorporation of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and in 1798 became its president. In 1804 he delivered the Annual Discourse on Phthisis Pulmonalis. He died Sept. 11, 1822.

Dr. John Jeffries graduated at Harvard College with its first honors in 1763, and immediately be-

gan his medical studies under the direction of Dr. Lloyd. He afterwards went abroad to perfect himself in his profession, and placed himself under the tuition of eminent physicians in England and Scotland. He attended several courses of lectures on the theory and practice of midwifery by Dr. Colin McKenzie. The University of Aberdeen conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Physic, and he was the first native of the American Provinces who obtained that honor.

He returned to Boston, and entered upon his professional labors. The Revolution came and found him a royalist. When the British evacuated Boston, he went too. He served as surgeon in the British army and navy, and afterwards practised his profession in London. He became interested in midwifery, and at one time thought of confining his attention to this branch. From this, however, he was dissuaded.

He was interested in scientific investigations. He made two aerial voyages, in one of which he crossed the British Channel from Dover to France. From these voyages he gained some reputation and more notoriety.

He once more returned to Boston, in 1790, and resumed practice. He became eminent as a physi-

cian, obstetrician, and surgeon. He attempted to give a course of lectures on anatomy, but a mob gained possession of his subject and carried it off in triumph. He took special interest in midwifery, and left on record nearly two thousand cases of labor. He died in 1819, aged 76 years.

Dr. Oliver Prescott was another of Dr. Lloyd's students. He was born in Groton, and began practice in his native town. He removed, in 1811, to Newburyport. He delivered the annual discourse of 1813 before the Massachusetts Medical Society, on the "Natural History and Medicinal Effects of the *Secale Cornutum* or Ergot." Dr. Prescott was one of the first to suggest the use of this drug to American physicians, and he carefully studied its effects. His discourse was very favorably received, was reprinted in Philadelphia and London, and was translated into the French and German languages.

Dr. Marshall Spring of Watertown graduated at Harvard College in 1762, and a few years later settled as a physician in his native town. He became the most famous doctor in the neighborhood. His house, especially on Sundays, was thronged with persons seeking professional advice. We may infer

that his obstetrical practice was large from the fact that in 1776, such was his notorious toryism, he would have unquestionably been sent out of the country, "if the exigencies of the ladies had not prevented."

Dr. Moses Little deserves mention as an obstetrician of good reputation. He practised in Salem at the beginning of the present century, and was celebrated as a surgeon and accoucheur. In the year 1808, he was present at the births of precisely one half of all the children born in Salem during the year. He died of phthisis. His wife had died, a few years before, of the same disease. He wrote for himself the well known epitaph:—"Here lies the body of Dr. Moses Little, who died about 45 years old.

Phthisis insatiabilis!  
Patrem matremque devorasti—  
Parce O parce liberis."

Dr. Thomas Kast, the son of a physician, began his medical studies under the care of his father, spent two years in England, where he studied practical midwifery under Dr. Mackenzie, and settled in Boston in 1774. He was an able man, and had a large obstetrical business.

Dr. James Lloyd and his contemporaries, several of whom were his pupils, rendered a service to the art of midwifery, which should be gratefully acknowledged and remembered by the medical profession.

We have now reached the close of the second century of our obstetrical history. During this period the practice of midwifery has been gradually passing from the hands of incompetent women to the charge of educated physicians. And it is a noteworthy fact that, during these same two hundred years, there was a signal improvement in the practice of this branch. It appears from the mortality bills of London, that, for twenty years ending in 1680, one, in every forty-four delivered, died: while for twenty years ending in 1820, only one, in every hundred and seven, died: so that the number of parturient mothers lost during the last years of the seventeenth century was about double the number lost during the first years of the nineteenth century. It is perhaps fair to infer (although we have not the statistics at hand to prove it) that a similar improvement took place in other cities and large towns.

The medical department of Harvard University was organized in 1782. In November, 1815, Walter

Channing was announced as the first Professor of the Theory and Practice of Midwifery.

No doubt midwifery had been taught in the Medical School to a certain extent during the thirty years preceding Dr. Channing's appointment. The professors of anatomy, and of the theory and practice of medicine, would naturally give a few lectures upon it in their annual courses. But it had evidently been considered a subordinate branch.



### CHAPTER III.

Dr. WALTER CHANNING, the first professor of midwifery in Harvard College, was born in Newport, Rhode Island. His parents and ancestors were people of high social and intellectual position. His elder brother, Rev. William E. Channing, D.D., has a world-wide reputation. Hundreds of Harvard graduates bless the memory of a younger brother, Prof. Edward T. Channing, for his admirable professional work in the chair of Rhetoric at Harvard College.

Dr. Channing's name appears in the Harvard College catalogue among the graduates of 1808. He pursued his medical studies in Boston, Philadelphia, Edinburgh, and London. He established himself as a physician in Boston in 1812, at the age of twenty-six years. Three years later, he entered upon the duties of his professorship.

My first knowledge of, and acquaintance with, him began in the autumn of 1835. He was then in his prime. In the department of obstetrics he stood without a rival in this neighborhood. I shall never forget the impression made on me by his first lecture. I had just begun my medical studies, and was attending my first course of medical lectures. According to the custom of the time, for four months, from November to February inclusive, we were required to listen, from four to six hours each day, to lectures on all the branches of medicine, and to digest what we could of them. The lectures (those on Chemistry excepted) were good, but to a young beginner not at first specially interesting. It was Dr. Channing's turn to officiate on the second hour of the second day. He came fresh from his morning's drive, bright, cheery, and in the best of spirits. The first impression was a favorable one. He was a fluent, at times an eloquent, speaker. He graphically described the bones of the female pelvis, and clothed them with flesh and blood; he was full of fun and anecdote; his manner was pleasant and interesting. The lecture reminded one of a refreshing easterly breeze, in a dry, hot, summer's day. The hour passed rapidly away; he briskly put on his coat, and disappeared

as suddenly as he came, leaving us almost spell-bound.

It is "due to the truth of history" to say that the promise of this first lecture was hardly fulfilled in the sequel. As the course proceeded, the lectures were apt to be discursive. The doctor was rarely tedious; but he was erratic, and not always edifying. In time, we began to listen to John C. Warren, John Ware, George Hayward, and Jacob Bigelow, with at least as much interest as we did to the professor of obstetrics.

Once or twice during the course we were treated to a little practical midwifery. A female pelvis was placed upon the table. The head of a rag baby was thrust into it. It was our duty to ascertain the presentations, and to deliver with the forceps. The scene in such a lying-in-room may be imagined.

Dr. Channing had thoroughly studied the art which he professed to teach. He was an enthusiast in obstetrics, and was held in high regard as a counsellor in this department. He made many contributions to the literature of our profession, and delivered one of the annual discourses before the Massachusetts Medical Society. His book on "Etherization in Child-birth" was timely and

valuable. His paper on the "Bed-case" is worth reading to-day.

He was connected for more than twenty years with the Massachusetts General Hospital, and was one of the accoucheurs of the Boston Lying-in-Hospital.

It is to his credit, as well as to that of the donor, that he received a bequest of several thousand dollars from a lady whom he never saw but once, but then in an hour of extreme peril, and who believed that to his skill she owed her life.

He was one of our earliest members, and as our first president is well remembered. He was much interested in this society, usually attended its meetings, took an active part in the discussions, and was always bright, genial and kindly.

Dr. Channing was a religious man, and deeply interested in religious institutions. When his pastor was absent, he would conduct the service, and preach the sermon. He could preside over a bible class, consisting of fifty to a hundred men and women, on a Sunday afternoon. He was willing to aid in parish work; and, though in full practice, would devote a generous portion of his time to parochial duties.

He lived to be ninety years old. During the

latter part of his life, the increasing infirmities of age kept him secluded. I have been told that he and his younger brother, in their last years, were in the habit of passing their birthdays together, and of devoting the time to social intercourse, to the reading of the Scriptures, and to prayer.

He served well his day and generation ; the close of his life was calm and peaceful ; he has left behind a pleasant memory.

Dr. Charles G. Putnam was born in Salem. He graduated at Harvard College in 1824, and received his medical degree from the same institution in 1827. After practising a few years in Salem, he removed to Boston. He gave special attention to obstetrics and the diseases of women.

His life was not an eventful one. He never obtruded himself into public notice, or sought to occupy conspicuous positions. Quiet, modest, and unassuming, he devoted himself unreservedly to the discharge of his duties as a physician. He possessed a clear head, a kind heart, and a sound judgment. He was a loyal, active, and faithful member of the profession, which he had thoroughly learned, and which he ably and conscientiously practised.

The Massachusetts Medical Society, appreciating his worth and merits, in 1869 made him its President. Upon the resignation of Dr. Channing, this society with one voice chose him to fill the vacant place.

He died suddenly Feb. 5, 1875, aged 70 years. His last words, while seated on the doorstep, just after the attack which proved fatal, were a request to his son to visit a patient, who required immediate attention.

At a special meeting of the Suffolk District Medical Society, called to notice his death, resolutions were passed in honor of his memory. Remarks were also made by several physicians attesting to his excellence of character, his independent judgment, his kindliness of heart, and his devotion to professional work. Mention was also made of his dexterity as an operator in obstetrical cases, and of the kindness and skill always manifested by him, when called in consultation. In the language of one of the speakers, "He was a wise, thoughtful, genial, gentle, man. All of us must be better for the example his life has been to us."

Dr. Anson Hooker, our third president, was born July 17, 1799, in Westhampton, Mass. His father

was a strict religionist, and would not allow his son in his youth to learn to dance, or to join in those sports which young people usually enjoy. As a consequence, when the son became free from parental rule, he came, to use his own language, "as near going to ruin as any young man could go and escape." He graduated at Williams College in 1818, and at the Harvard Medical School in 1822.

He began his medical career at the south end of Boston, and for a time had charge of a dispensary district. He removed from Boston to East Cambridge in 1825, and from that time till his death in November, 1869, he was an active and devoted physician.

Dr. Hooker was a man of high character, and of more than ordinary ability. His life was a laborious one; but he was enthusiastic in his love of his profession, and performed its every duty with conscientious fidelity. He had a genial and cheerful disposition, was eminently social and domestic, and carried sunshine wherever he went. His reputation was good in all branches of the profession; in midwifery he was an expert. His obstetrical practice was very large. Those who have examined his account books report that they find in them a record of about ten thousand cases of labor. His skill in obstetrical operations was proverbial.

During the war he was specially detailed, by order of Gov. Andrew, to visit, and report upon, the condition of the Massachusetts soldiers invalided in the Western United States General Hospitals. He performed this duty in a very satisfactory manner, and received the thanks of the Governor for the service rendered.

Dr. Hooker was regarded by the community in which he lived, not only as the good physician, but as the wise counsellor and the kind friend. At various times, he was called to fill important offices of trust and responsibility. He served upon the Board of Aldermen and School Committee of Cambridge, and for two years represented the city in the Legislature.

His death, at the age of three score and ten years, was caused by disease of the heart. The scene at his funeral was impressive. The church in which the services were held was crowded, and the countenances of those present indicated clearly the sadness of their hearts. Places of business were closed, and the whole population seemed to unite in offering a last tribute of affection to one whom they loved and honored. A fitting monument has been erected to his memory by the contributions of his townsmen.



Dr. Charles E. Buckingham graduated as Bachelor of Arts at Harvard College in 1840, and as Doctor of Medicine in 1844. He was the son of Joseph T. Buckingham, the noted editor of the *Boston Galaxy*, and subsequently of the *Boston Courier*, and he inherited some of his father's peculiarities. He began practice in Boston soon after he received his medical degree. He was a man of ability, energy, and industry. Independent, candid, outspoken in the expression of his opinions, honorable in his relations with his professional brethren, and possessing a generous regard for those who were his juniors, he gradually overcame the obstacles which lay in his path, and took and maintained his position as one of the leading physicians in Boston. But while ready and willing to accord to others their full rights, he was not inclined to relinquish his own without a struggle. He was not a non-resistant; whoever wished to contend with him found a foeman worthy of their steel.

His character and abilities received due appreciation, both from the profession and the public. He received successively the appointment of surgeon, and consulting physician, of the City Hospital, and of adjunct professor of the theory and practice of medicine, and of professor of obstetrics

and medical jurisprudence in Harvard University. He labored assiduously to raise the standard of medical education, and heartily sympathized with the late movement to re-organize the medical department of Harvard University.

As a writer he was clear and vigorous. It is understood that, at the time of his death, he had made considerable progress in the accumulation of material for a treatise on obstetrics.

He was an interested and valued member of this society, and, as its president for three years, did much to quicken its activity, and give life and character to our meetings.

He died at the age of fifty-six. A large company of those who loved and confided in him filled the church in which the funeral services were held, and united in rendering to him a last tribute of respect.

CHANNING, PUTNAM, HOOKER, BUCKINGHAM,—our first four presidents: they honored their profession while living; lovingly we cherish their memory.

Although Dr. John Homans had ceased to be connected with this society before his death, yet our pleasant recollections of him will not allow us to

pass him in silence. He graduated at Harvard College in 1812, and began his professional life in Brookfield, Mass. After several years of successful practice in that town, he removed to Boston, where he soon took, and for forty years maintained, a place in the front rank of his profession. He was a man whom it was pleasant to meet, and with whom it was a privilege to be acquainted. Courteous and gracious in his manners, kind and genial in his nature, thoroughly devoted to his profession, he won for himself a high place in the public estimation. He was for two years president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and in 1844 delivered the annual discourse. In his own life he exemplified the "Good Physician," whose character he so pleasantly portrayed in this discourse. He died in 1868, aged 74 years.

Many of us retain pleasant recollections of Dr. Edward D. G. Palmer, of Boston; a man of quiet and unassuming manners, respected and esteemed by his professional brethren and his patients.

Dr. William Edward Coale was a native of Baltimore, and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. For several years he was an assist-

ant surgeon in the navy, and for twenty-two years was a practitioner in Boston. Coming here a stranger, he soon had patients and friends, who appreciated his ability and acquirements. He was an early member of this society, and was esteemed for his social qualities and his medical attainments. In 1862, he offered his professional services to the Government, and was in service for several weeks in the memorable campaign of the Army of Virginia. Obligated by sickness to return home, he went back to the work in November of the same year, and visited the military hospitals in Tennessee and Kentucky as an inspector of the Sanitary Commission. He contracted disease in those malarial regions, from which he never recovered.

He was for many years an officer in the Massachusetts Medical Society, and an instructor in the Harvard Medical School. He was the author of a little work entitled, "Hints on Health," very pleasantly written, and full of valuable suggestions on a variety of subjects. He was a good physician, and a genial, true-hearted man. He died suddenly in April, 1865.

Dr. Calvin G. Page died May 29, 1869, at the age of thirty-nine years. He finished his work in

early manhood; a work marked throughout by energy, integrity, and fidelity to every duty. He was a man of great worth, and respected and beloved by those who knew him. He served honorably through three years of the war, and his early death was owing, in part at least, to exposure during this service. He died on Decoration Day, while loving hands were strewing flowers on the graves of his departed comrades.

Dr. Lucius M. Sargent was personally unknown to me. I knew him only by reputation. He was one of the youngest, perhaps the youngest, of our number: he was the first to die.

He was born in Boston, September, 1826. He entered Harvard College in 1844, but left during his second year. He received, however, the degree of Master of Arts with his class, as a special compliment to his general attainments, and the zeal and ability with which he prosecuted his profession. He was always among the foremost where energy, talent, and courage were necessary. As a medical student, his application was unremitting, and his enthusiasm was unbounded. The Hospital created the office of Artist to secure his services. After his graduation, he soon became a prominent physician

in the section of the city where he established himself, and a brilliant future seemed opening before him.

On the breaking out of the rebellion, he promptly offered his services as surgeon in the Second Massachusetts Infantry. But the routine of a surgeon's life soon became too dull for him, and he resigned his medical commission. He was next appointed captain in the First Regiment of Massachusetts Cavalry, and was in a large number of skirmishes and dangerous movements, peculiar to cavalry service. He rose in course with meritorious conduct to the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

On the ninth of December, 1864, while gallantly leading a successful charge upon the outer works near Bellfield, Virginia, under orders "to drive the enemy within his main defences, and to determine the rebel position," he fell, in front of his mounted column, mortally wounded, and in two hours expired.

"How sleep the brave who sink to rest,  
By all their country's wishes blest!  
By fairy hands their knell is rung;  
By forms unseen their dirge is sung;  
There Honor comes, a pilgrim gray,  
To bless the turf that wraps their clay;  
And Freedom shall awhile repair  
To dwell a weeping hermit there."

Twenty years have elapsed since the formation of this Society. During this time, nine of the members have died, including one who had previously resigned membership. The duty was assigned me, by the President, of recalling them to your memory, and of briefly sketching their lives and characters.

This duty, reluctantly assumed and unsatisfactorily discharged, has nevertheless been pleasant in performance ; the more so, from my connection in the service with one, whose friendship and sympathy I have shared through all my life.

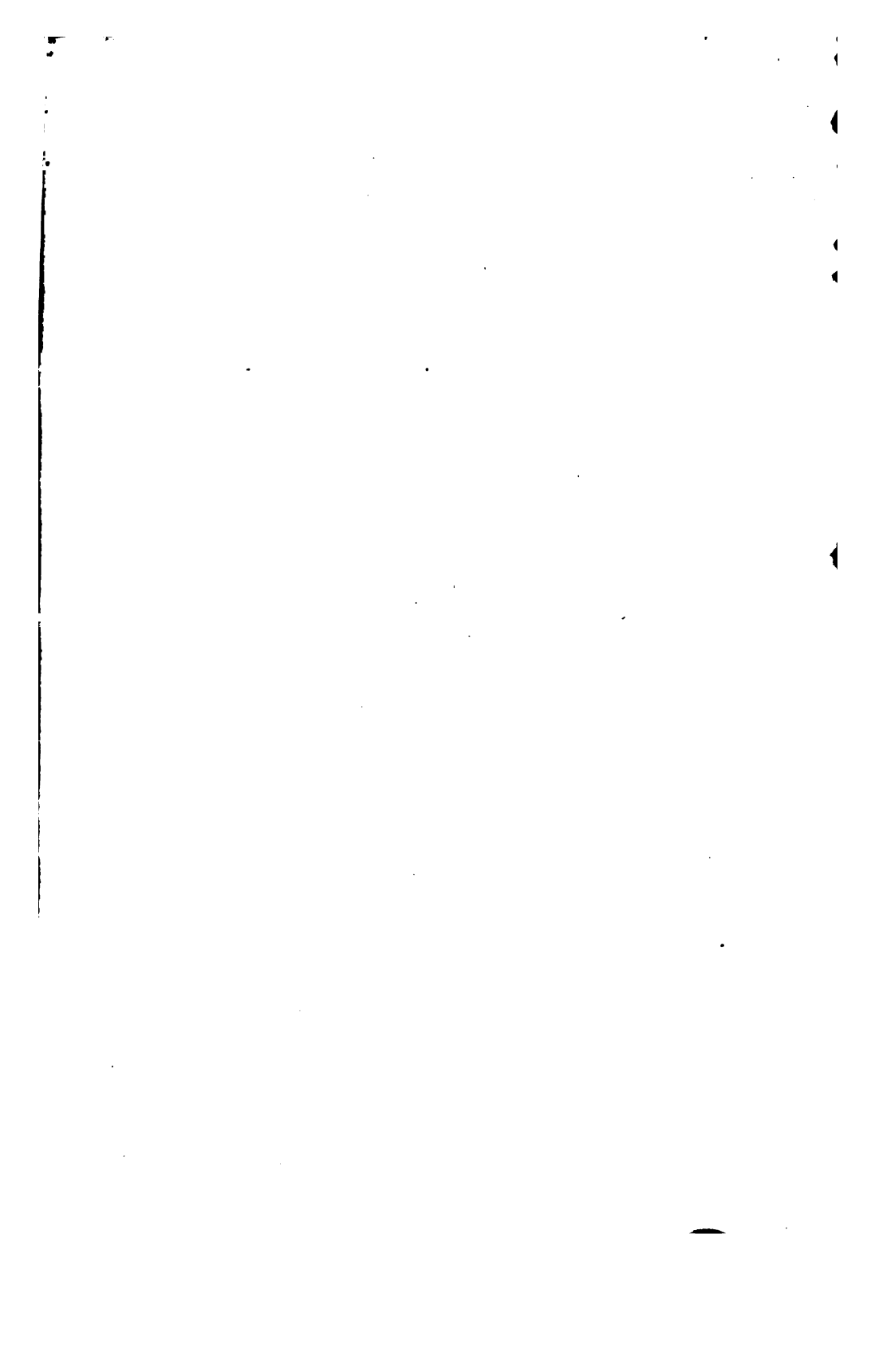
It was a privilege and an honor to be associated with these men ;

*neque candidiores*

*Terra tulit.*







1237

A FINE IS INCURRED IF THIS BOOK IS  
NOT RETURNED TO THE LIBRARY ON  
OR BEFORE THE LAST DATE STAMPED  
BELOW.

Nov 8  
2748605

DUE ~~CANCELLED~~

4308154

BOOKS

~~CANCELLED~~  
DEC 20 1977